

# “Why Do the Wicked Prosper?”

(THE PERPLEXITY OF ASAPH)

Psalm 73:1-28

6/24/2012



INTRODUCTION: (v. 1)

**\*Don't be fooled by the glitter, glamour, and glee of the wicked!**

## I. The PROSPERITY of the Wicked (v. 4-12)

- A. The APPEARANCE of the Wicked (v. 4-5)
  - 1. They appear to be comfortable even at death (v. 4)
  - 2. They appear to be free from trouble (v. 5)
- B. The ARROGANCE of the Wicked (v. 6, 8-9)
- C. The ABUNDANCE of the Wicked (v. 7, 12)
- D. The IGNORANCE of the Wicked (v. 11)

## II. The PERPLEXITY of the Righteous (v. 2-3, 13-16)

The apparent success of the wicked is a temptation even to the righteous:

- A. There is a temptation to ENVY those who prosper (v. 2-3)
- B. There is a temptation to QUESTION the value of righteousness (v. 13)
- C. There is a temptation to COMPLAIN over one's troubles (v. 14-16)

**III. The PUNISHMENT of the Wicked (v. 17-20)**

- A. Their end is DESTRUCTION (v. 17-18)
- B. Their end is DESOLATION (v. 19)
- C. Their end is DREAD (v. 19b)
- D. Their end is DESPISED (v. 20)

**IV. The PRECEPTS for the Righteous (v. 22-26)**

- A. Things are not always what they appear to be (v. 22)
- B. The Lord is the greatest asset anyone could have (v. 23-26)
  - 1. He is with me (v. 23)
    - a. His presence is continual (v. 23)
    - b. His presence is personal (v. 23b-24)
    - c. His presence is desirable (v. 25)
    - d. His presence is eternal (v. 26)
  - 2. He holds me (v. 23b)
  - 3. He guides me (v. 24a)
  - 4. He receives me (v. 24b)
  - 5. He satisfies me (v. 25; cp. v. 1)
  - 6. He strengthens me (v. 26)

CONCLUSION: A final admonition - v. 27-28